The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE !
EDUCATE !
ORGANIZE !

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U. S. SUPREME COURT ASSUMES ITS POWERS

Washington, June 14.—No where in the constitution is the United States supreme court given the right to review acts of congress, says Jackson H. Ralston of this city in an 80-page pamphlet on "Study and Report for the American Federation of Labor Upon Judicial Control Over Legislatures as to Constitutional Questions." By authority of the 1918 A. F. of L. convention, the executive council requested Mr. Ralston to prepare the report.

The author is a well-known attorney, and has been associated with other A. F. of L. counsel in several notable legal cases. The study and report is an historic-sociologic-politic review of the United States supreme court and various state supreme courts. Authority is quoted to sustain the claim that no part of the judiciary act adopted by the federal constitutional convention gave the supreme court jurisdiction over acts of congress, and that at best this power is only inferred.

In many instances decisions that profoundly affect the life of the people are based, not on the constitution, but on the personal views of the judges. Citations to this effect are printed and include this statement by Justice Field who, in setting aside the income tax law, over 20 years ago, said: "The present assault upon capital is but the beginning."

From a political standpoint the author shows that the courts act as a check on the expressed will of the people, postpone remedial legislation and subordinate the law-making branch of government.

The recall of judges, the author holds, is no solution as far as principle is concerned, and he favors a constitutional amendment which would prohibit acts of congress being set aside, but would permit courts to pass upon acts of executive and inferior powers that exceed the authority given them by law makers.

GREETS A. F. OF L.

Atlantic City, N. J., June 14.—President Wilson cabled this message to the annual convention of the A. F. of L.:

"May I not send my warm greetings to the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor and express my deep gratification that the international conferences which have grown out of the discussions of peace have led to a much fuller and more adequate comprehension of the questions of labor, to which statesmen throughout the world must direct their most thoughtful attention. It has been a real happiness to me to be of a little service in these great matters.

"I cannot justly refrain when sending this message from expressing in very warm terms the appreciation felt by all who have been dealing with labor matters of the invaluable service rendered by Mr. Gompers. He has won universal confidence and has firmly established in international circles, as well as at home, the reputation of the American Federation of Labor for sane and helpful counsel."

HOW EXPORTS GROW.

Washington, June 14.—Exports of finished products in the last half year following the close of the war are three times as much in value as in the corresponding period preceding the war.

In the six months since the war for which figures are now available, finished manufactures have been going out of the country at the rate of $6,300,000 a day, while in the year before the war they went out at the rate of about $2,000,000 a day. The growth in the export of finished manufactures has occurred in the movement to South America, Asia, Oceania and Africa. In fact, manufactures form over 80 per cent of the exports to South America and Asia, 90 per cent of those to Oceania, 68 per cent of those to Africa, and 66 per cent of those to North America.

WAR RISK CHECKS ISSUED.

Washington, June 14.—Through the bureau of war risk insurance checks to the number of 869,906, calling for a total of $33,932,962.65, were issued to dependent relatives of soldiers, sailors and marines during the month of May.

By far the greater part of this amount was for allotments made from the men's pay, this total being more than $25,000,000. Insurance payments for the month were $6,781,894.66, and compensation payments to disabled veterans reached $1,774,121.20. Insurance is now being paid to the beneficiaries of 25,610 men who died in service.

ENFORCE CHILD LABOR LAW.

Madison, Wis., June 14.—The state industrial commission is enforcing the state and federal child labor laws. During the past year 130 cases involving accidents to children employed in violation of the child labor law were reported to the commission. In all of the cases the employers violating the law paid treble compensation to the injured minors.

WOOD CUTTERS STRIKE.

Piedmont, W. Va., June 14.—The West Virginia Pulp and Paper company is experiencing considerable difficulty with its employes as a result of a refusal to pay living wages. Following the strike that has been on for several weeks at its mills at Tyrone, Pa., and Davis and Piedmont, W. Va., the men who cut the wood for the manufacture of pulp and paper have now joined the strike.

GET HIGHER RATE.

Rochester, N. Y., June 14.—Electrical workers have established a new rate, $7 a day and eight hours, being an increase of $1 a day. The shop men are also advanced $1, making their wages $6 a day. Between 5 and 6 p. m. price and a half is conceded; after that hour overtime will be paid double price.

DISCHARGE UNIONISTS.

Electra, Texas, June 14.—The Texas Producing company has issued an order that all men joining the Oil Workers' union shall be immediately discharged. The United States department of labor has assigned a conciliator to adjust this dispute.

NEW SCALE $6 PER DAY.

Los Angeles, Cal., June 14.—Painters' unions Nos. 202, 511 and 1063 terminated their strikes, winning $6 per day with 90 per cent of their membership working in strictly union shops.

STANDARD OF LIVING IS UNCERTAIN TERM

Atlantic City, N. J., June 14.—The American standard of living is an uncertain term, as there are as many different standards as there are different incomes and families of different sizes, said Dr. Royal Meeker, commissioner United States bureau of labor statistics, in an address in this city.

The speaker declared that those receiving small incomes are finding it very difficult to subsist. The remedy suggested included efficiency in food distribution and buying, education of housekeepers and social legislation to provide for cheaper food, clothing, houses, medical treatment and insurance.

Budgets collected by the bureau of labor statistics show that it requires from 50 to 60 cents per man per day to secure a well balanced diet sufficient in the number of calories. On this basis the average American family, consisting of husband, wife and three children below the age of 15 years, must spend, in order to be properly nourished, about $610 per annum for food, and this is approximately what is spent by those whose incomes are $1,800 to $1,850. Thus it would appear that families receiving less than $1,800 are under nourished.

The speaker advocated legislation requiring that the price of all food stuffs be expressed in terms of calories. People should recognize, he said, that the important consideration is not the price per pound or per quart, and that frequently the cheapest food per pound is the most expensive per unit of nourishment.

ENGLAND ACQUIRING LAND.

London, England, June 14.—Progress is reported on plans by which demobilized soldiers and others are to be placed on the land. County councils have acquired over 15,000 acres and are considering 83,000 additional acres. The board of agriculture has secured 12,000 acres and is negotiating the purchase of a number of other large properties, which will be developed on co-operative lines, either as small holdings, colonies or as large farms on a profit sharing basis.

In the former case there will be a central farm in charge of an experienced agriculturist and grouped around it will be a number of small holdings of various sizes, each provided with a house and the necessary farm buildings. These holdings will be let to ex-service men after they have served a term of probation as wage earners. The tenants may secure advice from the central farm, hire horses and the more expensive farm implements and get the benefit of co-operative organization in buying and in the sale of their products. On the profit-sharing farms it is proposed that the settlers shall each have a good cottage and garden. They will be employed on the farm at the district rate of wage and will share in any profits made on the farm as a whole.

GUARDING CHILDREN.

Washington, June 14.—By creating special divisions in their government, 18 states have given official recognition to the needs of the children, according to a statement issued by the children's bureau of the United States department of labor. The first division was created in New York in 114. Kansas, Ohio, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Louisiana followed in 1915 and Montana in 1917.

Florida, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Indiana, Connecticut and Rhode Island are the 11 states which have recently created new children's divisions.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS.

Philadelphia, June 14.—Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers' union No. 14 has signed a new scale that calls for eight hours, price and a half for overtime, double time for holidays and triple time for labor day. It is also agreed that the scale of wages for mechanics shall be 87½ cents per hour from June 1, 1919, to December 31, 1919, and 90 cents per hour from January 1, 1920, to May 31, 1921. Helpers are not to be paid over 60 cents per hour until rated as mechanics.

GIVES FREE LIFE INSURANCE.

Sebring, Ohio, June 14.—The five pottery firms located at this place have notified their employes that they will provide free life insurance for from $500 to $1,00 each, depending on the length of time each worker has been in the employ of the companies. An employe can claim full face value of the policy while living if permanent disability occurs before the age of 60. No physical examination is required. The insurance is free, if the worker has been employed for not less than 60 days.

PROFIT OF $17,000,000.

Washington, June 14.—Operation of the marine and seamen's division of the war risk bureau, which will be discontinued, now that the dangers from submarines and mines are over, resulted in a profit of more than $17,000,000 to the government without impairment of the $50,000,000 sinking fund provided by congress.

The division will return to the treasury more than $67,000,000.

DISCHARGE UNIONISTS.

Atlanta, Ga., June 14.—The Atlantic Steel company discharged two employes for joining a newly-formed union of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. A demand was made on the company to reinstate the released men. As a result of its rejection 500 men ceased work.

NINE CHARTERS ISSUED.

Pittsburg, Pa., June 14.—Officers of the Amalgamated Association of Iron Steel and Tin Workers report the following new lodges: Sterling, Ill.; Dartmouth, Nova Scotia; Youngstown, Ohio; Leechburg, Pa.; Kenosha, Wis.; Cleveland, Ohio; Pueblo, Col.; Wellsburg, W. V.; Struthers, Ohio.

WANT 44-HOUR WEEK.

Atlantic City, N. J., June 14.—A demand was made for the 44-hour week by the annual convention of the A. F. of L. metal trades department, at its convention in this city.

NEW SCALE IN EFFECT.

Omaha, Neb., June 14.—Electrical union No. 22 put into effect its new scale, $7 a day, the first of the month. Painters are demanding a $7 rate also.

A. F. OF L. IN ANNUAL CONVENTION

Atlantic City, N. J., June 14.—The thirty-ninth annual convention of the A. F. of L. convened in this city Monday, June 9, with approximately 550 delegates, the largest number ever recorded.

In the report of the executive council the treaty of peace is declared to give to government a purpose that has been lacking where the monarchial and bureaucratic concept obtained. The Prussian idea, defeated on the field of battle, is now forever made impossible of revival by the treaty of peace submitted to the German envoys.

"The covenant of the league of nations, written into the treaty of peace, must meet with unqualified approval and support of the American working people. It is not a perfect document and perfection is not claimed for it. It does, however, mark the nearest approach to perfection that has ever been reached in the international affairs of mankind. It provides the best machinery yet devised for the prevention of war. It places human relations upon a new basis and endeavors to enthrone right and justice instead of strength and might as the arbiter of international destinies.

"The introduction of the nine specific labor clauses in the peace treaty declares that 'the well-being, physical and moral, of the industrial wage earners is of supreme international importance.' No such declaration has ever been written into international law through any previous treaty of peace and it is due to the efforts of the American labor movement more than to any other single factor that it appears in this emphatic form in the present treaty."

A report of a special committee on health insurance is included in the report of the executive council. The special committee had many meetings with the executive council and divergent views were developed. The council recommends that the entire matter be again referred to it "with authority when it reaches a conclusion upon the matter to make that opinion public as the position of the A. F. of L. upon health insurance."

It is stated that few other years have shown such a reduction in the hours of labor as that just closed.

Contributions to the amount of $2,252.03 have been made by affiliates to the special co-operative fund for the purpose of permitting the president of the A. F. of L. to appoint for one year a qualified trade unionist-co-operator to lecture and advise on co-operation. The Buffalo convention, in 1917, asked all locals to contribute $1 to this fund and affiliates are asked to send in their contributions promptly.

A report of a special committee appointed under instruction of the last convention to investigate the educational systems of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union and other similar schools is included in the report. The committee praises the work of these movements and recommends that central bodies urge school boards to provide increased facilities for adult education and that if this is denied the central body should itself organize such classes. It is urged that trade unionists seek representation on boards of education.

Secretary Morrison reports that 555 charters were issued during the fiscal year. Of these, three were internationals—draftsmen, oil workers and copper plate engravers. There was one state charter issued—Mississippi—and 70 to central bodies.

The various affiliates report the following benefits paid to their members during the year: Death, $5,122,395.62; sick, $1,329,825.62.

The total membership has increased from 2,726,478 for the 1918 fiscal year to 3,260,068 for the 1919 fiscal year.

ORDERS PLANT STARTED.

Toledo, Ohio, June 14.—Federal Judge Killets has ordered the Overland automobile plant to resume operations. The company attempted to replace the 45-hour week with the 48-hour week and about 15,000 employes suspended work. Guards were employed and in a riot two persons were killed and several were injured. The plant then closed down and a selling agency in North Carolina appealed to Judge Killets for an injunction. The judge has announced he will regulate picketing at the plant.

Trade union officials were charged by the company with being responsible for the riot, and the workers replied:

"The Overland company, on the morning of May 6, locked out their employes after labor officials on the previous day had pleaded with them to continue to operate the plant under the conditions in effect prior to that date and to negotiate with committees elected by the employes.

"This they refused to do and arbitrarily locked out their employes. They have invited disorder by employing gun men and strikebreakers as well as many workers under a false impression as to the actual conditions.

"The union pickets have done more to prevent disorder at all times than any other body of citizens and the regular police force has been open in praise of the aid received from that source."

WHY MEN ARE "RESTLESS."

Washington, June 14.—According to reports received by the United States department of labor lead smelter employers at Herculaneum, Mo., are doing their utmost to develop an ugly spirit among employes.

A $4-a-day minimum, awarded a year ago last February by the national war labor board, has been ignored and when the armistice was signed one company reduced its force from 750 to 265 and then offered to pay $2.65 a day, which the men refused to accept. A subsidiary land company sold houses to these workers and secured ejectment orders from the court in cases where men were discharged or refused to accept the wage cut. A tense feeling has been developed and the men believe that further wage reductions are contemplated.

SAME OLD WESTERN UNION.

New York, June 14.—Officials may come and go, but the Western Union Telegraph company maintains strict adherence to its anti-union position and blacklisting policy.

Because southeastern operators suspended work to secure collective bargaining, the right to join a union and the reinstatement of victimized workers, President Carlton of the Western Union said:

"It has always been our rule, which we will adhere to, that where an employe quits the service with the hope of destroying or interfering with its continuity, such person shall never again return to our employ.

"Of course, should any of the 710 men already mentioned quit for the above mentioned purpose they leave the service of the company for good."

Under this reasoning it is easy to justify victimization for strikes invariably "interfere with service."

PROTECT WOMEN WORKERS.

Little Rock, Ark., June 14.—The state minimum wage and maximum hour commission has issued an order enforcing an act of the last legislature, which reads: "On and after May 20, 1919, no female shall be employed or be permitted to work in any hotel or restaurant more than nine hours in one day, nor more than six days a week, nor more than 54 hours a week." The punishment for a violation of the law is a fine of $25 to $100.

DEATHS IN INDUSTRY.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., June 14.—Nearly 100 miners were killed when sparks from a live electric wire fell among several kegs of powder in a car near the entrance of the Hudson Coal company's mine.

The miners are bitter against this and other companies who are charged with loading powder on cars carrying miners to and from the mines.

NEW SCALE AGREED TO.

Austin, Texas, June 14.—A 16-days' lockout terminated when the Planing Mills association and Carpenters' union No. 300 reached an eight-hour day agreement. Wages will be $5.50 per day for bench men and 60 cents an hour for machine men, with time and a half for over eight hours and double time for Sundays.

GET 75 CENTS AN HOUR.

Rock Island, Ill., June 14.—Tri-City electrical workers have reached a settlement with the electrical contractors which establishes a minimum wage of 75 cents an hour and improves working conditions.

PATTERN MAKERS WIN.

Quincy, Ill., June 14.—The Pattern Makers' union has signed an agreement with the contractors which calls for an increase of 15 cents an hour.

FIVE-DAY WEEK.

Yonkers, N. Y., June 14.—Painters' union No. 187 has agreed with contracting painters to work only five days a week. Wages are $30 a week, with pay for overtime.

WELFARE WORK DISCUSSED.

East St. Louis, Ill., June 14.—The Union News discusses the welfare plan of Swift & Company, which, it is announced, "will bring contentment into the workers' lives." The labor paper asks why the company fought the woman's eight-hour bill, if it believes in real welfare work, and then continues with these embarrassing questions:

"Does the welfare plan provide better homes for the workers?

"Does the welfare plan provide more to eat for the workers and their families?

"Does the welfare work make the job lighter and the hours of labor shorter?

"Does the welfare work buy more clothes for the workers or their families, or does it provide necessary books for the children so that they may be given a decent education, or give them music lessons, if they desire this sort of pleasure?

"Does it buy more ice in summer or coal in the winter, so the worker's family may enjoy some of the things the employer enjoys?"

The Union News then asks why the packers are so interested in the welfare of their employes who, before they were organized, worked 10 hours a day at an average rate of 27½ cents an hour, with an average yearly wage of $700 when government statistics showed that it took nearly twice that amount to live.

PRICES WILL NOT DROP.

Washington, June 14.—That prices will not drop seems to be the prediction of authorities on all sides, as reported in the May bulletin of the federal reserve board. It says:

"The business community has given up the thought that it may profitably await a further considerable reduction in prices and is now contenting itself with the development of trade along lines dependent upon at least the temporary maintenance of existing levels." The review also says that though prices of a few basic commodities have fallen slightly these declines have not yet been effected in retail prices. "What is now happening," it adds, "seems to indicate that business will, after a period of initial readjustment in prices, proceed upon a level not far removed from that established during the war."

SHIP BUILDING GREATER.

London, June 14.—The United States was building on March 31 twice as much shipping as was Great Britain according to the figures given by Lloyd's Register for the first three months of 1919.

The total amount of all shipping under construction on that date in allied and neutral countries was given as 7,796,263 tons. Great Britain's share of this was 2,254,845. The United States was then building 4,185,523 tons of shipping.

These figures credit the United States with 75 per cent of the total tonnage under construction in allied and neutral countries outside of Great Britain, and it is pointed out that the United States is now building 28 times as much as it was in June, 1914.

STUDY LIFE INSURANCE.

Washington, June 14.—Officers of the National Federation of Federal Employes are studying the question of life insurance for the members of this organization. Life insurance companies have presented several group plans and the study includes a review of insurance carried by various trade unions. A report on this question will be submitted to the next convention of the federal employes.

CO-OPS. OUT OF DEBT.

Seattle, Wash., June 14.—The Seattle Co-operative association is out of debt. June 1, 1918, the association started with 123 members who paid in $900 on their stock. Of that sum $750 was paid for the store, which invoiced $8,300. As a result of the educational campaign the association now has 740 members. There are 15 other co-operative stores in the state, acting co-operatively with the Washington Rochdale union.

$1 AN HOUR FOR G. P. O.

Washington, June 14.—One dollar per hour is the rate to be paid printers and compositors, machinists, make-up men and other employes of the government printing office, if a bill introduced by Congressman Ogden is passed. It provides also for time and one-half overtime rate, with a basic eight-hour day.

WAGE INCREASE WON.

Boston, June 14.—Members of Electrotypers' union No. 11, employed outside the newspapers, have adjusted their grievances with employers. Under the new agreement one class of electrotypers is increased from $27 to $32 per week; the second class, from $20 to $26.

CANADIAN LIVING COSTS.

Ottawa, Canada, June 14.—The Labor Gazette, issued by the Dominion department of labor, reports that in April, 1914, the retail price of the average family budget was $7.54. In the middle of April, this year, the cost had increased to $13.35.

NEW AMALGAMATED LODGE.

Beech Bottom, W. Va., June 14.—Beech Bottom lodge No. 18 was organized here of employes of the new Whitaker-Glessner plant.

RAP COMPANY "UNIONS."

Atlantic City, N. J., June 14.—The Rockefeller "union" has not fooled delegates to the International Labor Press of America, which held its annual meeting prior to the A. F. of L. convention. These hard-headed labor editors are well acquainted with every sort of publicity methods, and have condemned the Rockefeller "union" theory despite glowing eulogies of press agents.

The labor editors declare that this system is intended to check the growth of trade unions and to weaken the economic power of the workers, that shop and plant committee men elections are conducted unfairly; that the committees are "loaded with bosses," and that instead of encouraging free expression by the workers, the company "union" perpetuates autocratic control of industry.

The resolution charges intimidation of committee men, systematic penalization of workers for joining trade unions, denial of the right of workers to retain experts, in the form of labor officials, to bargain with the experts employed by the employers, and that "the professions of democracy made by these employers are meant to camouflage their intention to perpetuate the industrial status."

STATE INSURANCE CUT.

Salt Lake City, Utah, June 14.—The state compensation insurance rate has been cut 10 per cent, while benefits have been increased. Private insurance companies made a determined fight to have the rates maintained at the same figure fixed for 1917, but were defeated. Experience demonstrated that the general expense of running the workmen's compensation service could be curtailed. The old rate was 2.70 plus .01, and applied to both private companies and the state. The new rate as reduced is fixed at 2.24, a reduction of 10 per cent, making it practically impossible for private companies to compete. With the reduction noted accident compensation will be increased from $12 to $16 weekly, death benefits from $4,500 to $5,000, medical benefits from $200 to $500, reduction of the waiting period from 10 to three days and increase of percentage from 55 to 60 and the provision made to pay for disfigurement cases.

WANT U. S. EMPLOYMENT.

Washington, June 14.—The national board of farm organizations, representing over 2,000,000 farmers in every state in the union, has asked congress to continue the United States employment service, which failed to secure the necessary appropriation at the last session of congress. The national grange, numbering 1,000,000 farmers, has made a similar request.

The farmers say that it is necessary that they have some agency of national scope through which they can obtain workers when needed, and that the seasonal problem promises to be serious, particularly in the big wheat belt extending from Texas to the Canadian border wherein is grown three-fourths of the nation's wheat crop.

EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN.

London, England, June 14.—A government committee that has been investigating the relation of women's to men's wages indorses the principle of equal pay for equal work. It is urged that the government apply this principle in the civil service and that the separate grades and examinations for women clerks in this service should be abolished. The government is asked to consider mothers' pensions for widows and for deserted wives with children of men physically or mentally disabled.

PENALIZE NIGHT WORK.

Chicago, June 14.—Striking bakers have not secured the immediate abolishment of night work, but they have secured an increase of 20 cents an hour for work performed during this time. It is stated that this will gradually eliminate night work. Additional gains include a $2 weekly increase with the work day cut from eight and one-half and nine hours to eight hours.

SECURE WAGE INCREASES.

Charleston, W. Va., June 14.—The following building trades have secured wage increases: Plumbers, 81¼c per hour; electrical workers, 81 1-4c per hour; painters, 75c per hour; sheet metal workers, 80c per hour; iron workers, $1.00 per hour; plasterers, 87 1-2 per hour; carpenters, 75c per hour.

MOLDERS REDUCE HOURS.

Cleveland, Ohio, June 14.—Iron molders have switched the work day on the eight-hour line so gently that it was hardly noticed by the outside world. Besides reducing hours from nine to eight, these thoroughly organized workers have raised wages from $5.50 to $6 a day.

CO-OP. STORE OPENED.

Olympia, Wash., June 14.—Co-operators of this city have formed a company and opened a store. The new organization is capitalized at $4,000 and is composed of farmers and labor unionists.

LIFE EVERY THREE MINUTES.

Washington, June 14.—The public health service reports that tuberculosis claims a life every three minutes in the United States.

"BIG FIVE" FIX FOOD PRICES.

Cincinnati, June 14.—Federal Trade Commissioner William B. Colver, in addressing a meeting of the National Wholesale Grocers' association, declared that the meat packers "will absolutely dictate to the people of this country what they shall eat and what they shall pay for it." if present tendencies are not stopped.

"You are told the federal trade commission carries a sword with which to smite American business," he said. "I tell you that the federal commission carries a shield which it places over American business whenever a business concern appeals to it against unlawful interference and unfair competition. As a result of the investigation into the operations of the beef companies and the reports it made to the government, it has brought down the bolts of the Jove of beef upon their heads.

"I read one of Wilson & Co.'s advertisements published a few days ago, which described for the delectation of the 'dear folks' an imaginary dinner at which not only the steak and lard in the biscuits came from Wilson & Co., but so did the butter, the canned peaches, the olives, the catsup and the coffee. The salt and pepper may have come through the regular channels of food purveying.

"Shall we, the people who have just poured out our blood and treasure in France to end the 'ruthless efficiency' of the Hun sit silent while the same commercial kultur comes to its perfect flower in this country?"

WANT ROADS RETURNED.

Washington, June 14.—The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has submitted to a referendum of its organizations a committee report which favors the return of railroads to private owners with "comprehensive regulation."

These are the main points in the report:

Permission to consolidate a limited number of strong competing lines with taxation and police regulations reserved for the states.

Federal regulation of interstate rates affecting interstate commerce.

Legislation that rates shall yield "an adequate return on a fair value of the property as determined by public authority."

Payment into a fund of a share of the excess earned by any railroad, this fund to strengthen general railroad credit and increase railroad efficiency.

A federal transportation board to develop a national system of rail, water and highway transportation.

LONGSHOREMEN GET BOOST.

St. Johns, Newfoundland, June 14.—In response to a demand made on the shippers wages of the longshoremen were increased. The coal shovellers are now paid 55 cents per hour, and 65 cents per hour from 6 o'clock p. m. until midnight, and 90 cents per hour after midnight. When working during meal hours they will be paid $1 per hour; the last named rate will also be paid on holidays and Sundays.

For those handling general cargo the pay is 50 cents per hour by day, as against 40 cents formerly, and 60 cents at night up to midnight and 90 cents per hour thereafter.

The fish handlers and workers on the wharves have been granted an all-round increase of 25 per cent.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Toronto, Canada, June 14.—A wage increase of $8 a week has been secured by Typographical union No. 91 for its commercial shop members. The printers wanted a 44-hour week, but accepted the employers' suggestion that the eight-hour day be continued for the present and that work in excess of eight hours be paid for at the rate of time and one-half for the first three hours and double time thereafter.

Hamilton, Canada, June 14.—Newspaper members of the Typographical union have advanced wages $5 a week.

WON THEIR DEMANDS.

Erie, Pa., June 14.—An agreement has been reached between the Builders' association and Painters' union whereby the latter wins all its demands and 10 cents an hour advance, making the rate 70 cents. Reaching this agreement ends the strike as to carpenters, bricklayers and painters. Hoisting engineers and electricians are still idle.

MOLDERS' STRIKE SETTLED.

Quincy, Ill., June 14.—A 14-weeks' strike of Iron Molders' union No. 44 has been compromised, the strikers securing 68 cents an hour and an eight-hour day. The original demand was for a minimum wage of $6.00 per day and eight hours.

FURNITURE MAKERS STRIKE.

Jamestown, N. Y., June 14.—Employes in most of the 30 furniture factories are on strike for an eight-hour day with nine hours' pay and an increase of 10 per cent. The strike affects nearly 4,000 workers.

WIN THEIR DEMANDS.

St. Johns, Newfoundland, June 14.—The Builders' association has accepted the 60-cents-an-hour demand of the Bricklayers' and Masons' union.

$1 A DAY INCREASE.

St. Paul, Minn., June 14.—Inside Electrical Workers' union No. 110 has raised wages $1 a day.

TELEGRAPHERS STRIKE.

Chicago, June 14.—After repeated failure of commercial telegraphers to secure a redress of grievances a nation-wide strike was called last Wednesday by President Konenkamp of the Commercial Telegraphers' union.

The wrongs of these workers are included in the following message to President Gompers at the A. F. of L. convention by President Konenkamp just prior to the strike:

"The commercial telegraphers of the United States will strike tomorrow for the fundamental rights to organize into trade unions and to bargain collectively. The attitude of the wire administration under Burleson and his restoring President Carlton to control of the Western Union for the purpose of destroying us makes this strike inevitable. You are aware of the promises made to us by the government. You know how they were violated. Mediation, conciliation and arbitration have not been available for us, because the employers doubt our strength. But I feel confident we will surprise the nation by tomorrow's response.

"I earnestly ask the convention now in session to take some action to help us destroy the worst labor autocracy this country has ever known."

STREET CAR MEN GET RAISE.

Peoria, Ill., June 17.—In response to a demand from the street car men the Peoria Street railway granted a new wage schedule which gives them the following rates: First year, 41 cents; second year, 44 cents; third year and thereafter, 47 cents; overtime, 5 cents extra; special cars after hours, 55 cents.

Evansville, Ind., June 14.—An agreement between the Public Utilities company and its motormen and conductors raises wages 5 cents an hour for a nine-hour day. The minimum is 36 and the maximum 41 cents an hour.

Muskogee, Okla., June 14.—Locked-out street car men have won an increase of 30 per cent and the reinstatement of all employes. Trouble arose over the formation of the union, when the manager discharged those active in the work.

Colorado Springs, Col., June 14.—Organized street car men have advanced rates of two-men cars from 37 to 48 cents an hour. One-car men are raised from 40 to 51 cents an hour.

CHEER U. S. OWNERSHIP.

Atlantic City, N. J., June 14.—In a speech to the A. F. of L. convention Glenn E. Plumb, attorney for the railroad brotherhoods, declared that the railroad systems should be immediately acquired by the government. The sentiment was cheered. The speaker explained a solution for the railroad question whose principle has been endorsed by the four railroad brotherhoods and the railroad shop men affiliated with the A. F. of L. This plan provides for operation and control by a single corporation whose board of directors shall consist of an equal number of representatives of the government, managing officials of the roads and the workers. All profits shall be divided 50-50 between the government and the operators. The government's share shall be placed in a fund to eventually buy the roads and the operators' share shall be divided pro rata, according to salaries and wages received.

PENNSY DROPPING WOMEN.

Philadelphia, June 14.—Women were extensively employed by the Pennsylvania railroad during the war, but they are now being rapidly displaced. Between March 1 and April 1, 289 stenographers and typewriters were released. On March 1, 1919, the Pennsylvania railroad company (eastern lines) had on its payroll 11,110 women employes. On April 1 there were only 9,977, and on May 1, 9,601 a decrease of 1,500 in two months.

SECURE ADVANCES.

Hamilton, Canada, June 14.—Electrical Workers' union No. 105 signed an agreement with the Cataract Power company on behalf of the operators and maintenance men at Decew Falls and all sub-stations which will give the operators an increase of from $10 to $25 per month and maintenance men 10 to 12½ cents per hour. The increase dates form June 1. The employes work eight-hour shifts.

SETTLE AT $1 AN HOUR.

Omaha, Neb., June 14.—Bricklayers' union No. 1 has effected a settlement by which the rate will hereafter be $1 an hour. Kansas City has paid this scale since February 15; St. Joseph since January 1; Denver since July 15, 1918; and Sioux City has made an agreement that calls for the same wage. The Des Moines strike has been settled, but the terms are not available.

GRANTED 44-HOUR WEEK.

Jackson, Mich., June 14.—On February 7 Carpenters' union No. 651 notified contractors that June 1 minimum wages would be 70 cents an hour, an increase of 10 cents, and that 44 hours would be a week's work, establishing a permanent Saturday half holiday. The increased wage rate and the shorter hours were put into force without friction.

20-CENT HOUR INCREASE.

New Orleans, June 14.—The electrical contractors have raised the wages, of the union electrical workers to 90 cents an hour for journeymen and to 50 cents for helpers, being a flat advance of 20 cents an hour. The new rates affect 600 workers.

ACTORS FORM UNION.

Paris, France, June 14.—The actors and singers have formed a union and affiliated with the recognized French trade union movement. The new union will endeavor to establish a minimum of $4 per day, with extra pay for rehearsals.

PRESSMEN GET RAISE.

Los Angeles, Cal., June 14.—Web Pressmen's union No. 18 completed an agreement with the daily paper publishers which gives all members a flat wage increase of $6.50, from apprentices to foremen.

RAISED $4.48 PER WEEK.

Peoria, Ill., June 14.—Through arbitration the Building Laborers' and Hod Carriers' union has raised wages from 50 to 56 cents an hour, or $4.48 a day.

TYRANNY IN ALL FORMS OPPOSED BY WORKERS

Atlantic City, N. J., June 14.—The trade union movement opposes tyranny in all forms, declared President Gompers in responding to the address of welcome by Governor Runyon of this state, at the opening session of the A. F. of L. convention.

"Now the war has been won and the day of reconstruction and readjustment is at hand," said the trade unionist. "A new concept of right has been reached and the world has gone through a great change.

"Employers too have come to see the light of the new concept of right, and they are accepting the new order of things; that is, most of them have. There are others, who, like the bourbons of old, never forget anything because they never learned anything.

"Men and women have given their blood for principles and ideals, not only for the period of the war, but for the period of all time, in making sacrifices. It was not their intention that the principles for which they contended should be lost sight of when the war was won. They sacrificed themselves by giving their blood, and now they are determined that tyranny whether it be in political or industrial life, shall be no more. The day for that has passed.

"Let me tell you this: If any employer believes that industrial autocracy is going to prevail in America he is counting without his host.

"The principles for which labor has fought since the beginning must come to full fruition. We are making no unjust demands.

"Workers give to society a service without which civilization itself would fall. We intend to make this country worthy of the civilization of our times and to future historians the story of the labor movement in the United States will prove the greatest source of information and inspiration as to numbers, powers and influence."

STANDARD OIL'S OLD GAME.

Fort Worth, Texas, June 14.—In the current issue of the International Oil Worker is an article by General Organizer Jacobs which shows that Standard Oil is up to its old tricks in the rich oil fields of northern Louisiana which is operated by independent companies. Standard Oil refuses to handle the oil of these concerns through its pipe lines and the independents are being pushed out of business. An effort is being made to call a special session of the legislature, but thousands of dollars is spent each week for full page advertisements in the daily press to hoodwink the people.

"At the beginning of 1919," says Organizer Jacobs, "there were nearly 400 rotary rigs running in this district. Today there are very few. Production men have been laid off by the score in order to cut expenses. Men have left that field by the hundreds for other fields in Texas and Oklahoma in order to secure employment."

GAINS BY CARPENTERS.

Indianapolis, June 14.—General Secretary Frank Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters reports the following wage gains by affiliated locals:

La Crosse, Wis., from 50 to 65c during 1919; 75c to 1921. South Bend, Ind., and Emporia, Kan., 75c an hour. Ashland, Ky., 60 to 75c. Superior, Wis., 70 to 80c. Bristol, Conn., 62½ to 70c. Flagstoff, Ariz., $6 to $6.50 a day. Palestine, Tex., $6 to $7 a day. Ashtabula, Ohio, 60 to 80c. Des Moines, Iowa, 75c on Sept. 1; 80c, 1921. Topeka and Hutchinson, Kan., 62½ to 75c. Toronto, Canada, 55 to 75c. Sharon, Pa., 85c. Lebanon, Pa., 50 to 62½c. Pottstown, Pa., 55 to 65c. Huntington, N. Y., $5 to $6 a day. Nashua, N. H., 70c. Scottdale, Pa., 55 to 62½c. Sioux City, Iowa, 82½c on July 1; 85c, Nov. 1. Chester and Media, Pa., 80c. St. Paul and Minneapolis, 60 to 75c. Aurora, Ill., 75 to 85c. Kansas City, Mo., foremen, $1; journeymen, 85c.

ESSAYS ON UNIONISM.

Sheridan, Wyo., June 14.—To develop a knowledge of trade unionism among high school and eight-grade students the Sheridan county trades and labor council promoted an essay contest. The first prize in both cases was won by a girl. The eighth grade winner declared that one of the principles of organized labor is dicipline. "When that has been established," she said, "it is not difficult to accomplish their other aims."

"Poor wages make people dissatisfied and dissatisfied people can be led to do very nearly anything," was the philosophic comment of this school girl, who would make a good advisor to certain employers and editors.

EVEN GAS PRICES JUMP.

Washington, June 14.—Figures compiled by the United States bureau of labor statistics show that advances in the price of gas for household purposes was general during the year ended April 15, 1919. The increase varied from 5 per cent to 45 per cent. A general increase also was registered in the cost of natural gas and in manufactured and natural gas, mixed. In Kansas City the price of natural gas went from 60 to 80 cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

MOTHERS' ACT OPERATIVE.

Edmonton, Canada, June 14.—The mothers' act passed at the last session of the Alberta legislature provides that a widow with a boy under 15 years of age and a girl under 16, and not being able to properly provide for them, may be assisted. The amount of the allowance is left to the inspector having supervision of the enforcement of the law.

255 SHIPS LAUNCHED.

Washington, June 14.—During the months of April and May last 255 ships were launched in the ship yards of the United States. During the same months in 1918, 129 ships were launched, according to the bulletin of the United States shipping board. These ships have a gross combined tonnage of 900,000.

WANT UNIFORM WAGE.

Dallas, Texas, June 14.—The state carpenters' council at its annual meeting here recommended to its approximately 2,500 members the establishment of a uniform wage rate of 87 1-2 cents and an eight-hour day.

METAL TRADES UNITE.

Beaumont, Texas, June 14.—The state interallied metal trades council was formed here, composed of 58 delegates representing 12 cities. This organization is believed to be the first of its kind in the southwest.